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12 October 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversation with DD/P 12 October Regarding Conflicts at ATI,  
Palo Alto, California, between Project IDEALIST Work and

[REDACTED]

1. I discussed with Mr. Helms 12 October the problem faced by [REDACTED] of ATI with regard to priorities as between contract work by his organization on the IDEALIST aircraft and his pressing workload on the C-123 aircraft. [REDACTED] I explained to Mr. Helms that [REDACTED] main problem was that he did not have engineering skills in sufficient depth to isolate individuals on a given project alone and that some of the people required to do the priority job on the IDEALIST equipment (System XII) were heavily committed to the C-123 gear. I said also that we had, with DD/R's concurrence, invited [REDACTED] to visit Headquarters on 18 October for the purpose of discussing what reasonable steps he could take to increase his work force capability, and that at that point we would definitely want this to be a three-way conversation involving Mr. [REDACTED] from SOD where the C-123 responsibility lies.

2. Mr. Helms said that he made the decision on relative priorities at least once before in connection with Project IDEALIST and that there appeared no other alternative but to make it again, but that he certainly hoped something could be done to "ginger up" [REDACTED] to have a larger capability. I am accordingly advising Contracts Division, OSA, and the Chief, Communications Staff, OSA, to get in touch with [REDACTED] to inform him of this decision so that he can readjust his work schedule. The only estimate we have as to the potential penalty for this priorities realignment comes from [REDACTED] who is Project Officer at Lockheed for both programs. It was his view, expressed last week, that this realignment of priorities would result in a delay in the final configuration of the C-123's up to six weeks. As an outgrowth of Mr. Helms' position in this matter, [REDACTED] will also be informed to place emphasis upon the IDEALIST capability in contrast to the C-123's.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Deputy Assistant Director  
(Special Activities)